

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5           1.    A facemask assembly for night vision goggles  
comprising,

              a frame assembly;

              a mount assembly for attachment of the night vision  
10   goggles;

              an adjustment strap assembly; and

              a neck pad assembly,

15           wherein the frame assembly is generally C-shaped and  
contoured to extend across the upper forehead of a user, with  
each end of the generally C-shaped frame assembly extending  
down around the outside of the eyes and to the hollow of the  
cheeks of a user, below the cheek bones and above the jaw.

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              2.   A facemask assembly according to claim 1 also  
comprising at least one forehead pad attached to the frame  
assembly and positioned to be between the frame assembly and  
the upper forehead of a user when the facemask assembly is  
25   being worn by the user.

              3.   A facemask assembly according to claim 2 also  
comprising a pair of cheek pads, a first cheek pad attached to  
one end of the frame assembly and positioned to be between the  
30   frame assembly and the hollow of the cheek of a user when the  
facemask assembly is being worn by the user and a second cheek  
pad attached to the other end of the frame assembly and  
positioned to be between the frame assembly and the hollow of  
the other cheek of the user when the facemask assembly is  
35   being worn by the user.

4.    A facemask assembly according to claim 3 wherein the pads are removably attached to the frame assembly.

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5.    A facemask assembly according to claim 4 wherein the pads are removably attached using at least one snap for each pad.

10    6.    A facemask assembly according to claim 4 wherein the pads are removably attached using at least two snaps for each pad.

15    7.    A facemask assembly according to claim 4 wherein the pads are removably attached using loop and pile fasteners.

8.    A facemask assembly according to claim 3 wherein the pads are covered with a protective sheath.

20    9.    A facemask assembly according to claim 8 wherein the protective sheath is made of sheepskin leather.

10.   A facemask assembly according to claim 3 wherein the pads are comprised of a foam material.

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11.   A facemask assembly according to claim 10 wherein a first portion of the foam material positioned closest to a user's face when the facemask is being worn is adapted to form itself around facial features while applying minimal pressure.

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12.   A facemask assembly according to claim 11 wherein the first portion is a polyurethane foam with a thickness of about 0.5 inch, having a density of about 2 lbs./cu. ft. and a compression of about 0.7 psi.

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1       **51662/TJD/N210 -**

13. A facemask according to claim 11 wherein a second  
portion of the foam material positioned outside the first  
5 portion is adapted to allow for additional cushioning.

14. A facemask according to claim 13 wherein the second  
portion is a polyurethane foam with a thickness of about 0.25  
inch, having a density of about 15 lbs/cu. ft. and a  
10 compression of about 1 to 5 psi.

15. A facemask assembly according to claim 3 wherein the  
pads are comprised of an air bladder.

16. A facemask assembly according to claim 1 wherein the  
frame assembly is made from a durable, lightweight and  
flexible material.

17. A facemask assembly according to claim 1 wherein the  
20 frame assembly is made from nylon 6/6.

18. A facemask assembly according to claim 1 wherein the  
frame assembly is hinged so that the facemask assembly can be  
folded into a more compact configuration when not in use.

25 19. A facemask assembly according to claim 1 wherein the  
frame assembly has an exterior surface that is smooth and  
streamlined.

30 20. A facemask assembly according to claim 3 wherein  
there is a gap between the at least one forehead pad and each  
of the cheek pads.

21. A facemask assembly for night vision goggles  
35 comprising,

1       **51662/TJD/N210 -**

          a frame assembly;

5           a mount assembly for attachment of the night vision  
goggles;

          an adjustment strap assembly; and

          a neck pad assembly,

10           wherein the frame assembly is hinged to allow  
rotation of at least one portion of the frame assembly with  
respect to the remainder of the frame assembly through a  
limited range of motion between an open configuration for use  
15           and a folded configuration for storage.

          22. A facemask assembly for night vision goggles  
comprising,

          a frame assembly;

20           a mount assembly for attachment of the night vision  
goggles;

          an adjustment strap assembly;

25           a neck pad assembly; and

          a protective pad positioned on top of a user's head  
when the facemask assembly is being worn to protect the user's  
head from injury from the night vision goggles when in a  
30           stowed position.

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